Docket No.: Carbonaro 1

In re application of: Carbonaro

Application No.: 10/840,011

Group No. 2617

Filed: 6 May 2004

Examiner: Au, Gary

5 For: Wireless Interface That Supports Multiple Remote Station Sets and Devices

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#### **AMENDMENT**

## **Introductory Comments**

20 Please amend the above-identified application as follows in response to the Final Office Action of 24 April 2006.

#### **Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (Currently Amended) A communication system that enables remote non-cordless land line station devices of said system to make and receive calls over a wireless network using a wireless phone, such as a cell phone, coupled in series signal-wise between said wireless network and said remote non-cordless land line station devices, said system comprising:

a plurality of wireless interfaces;

a cell phone base unit coupled to a first one of said wireless interfaces; said cell phone base unit is adapted to be coupled signal-wise to [[a]] said cell phone;

at least-one each said remote non-cordless land line station device being individual to and coupled to another a different one of said wireless interfaces; and apparatus including said wireless interfaces responsive to the receipt of an incoming call from said wireless network for extending said incoming call via said cell phone and the wireless interface of said cell phone to said at least one of said remote non-cordless land line station device devices via the wireless interface individual to said

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 characterized in that said apparatus for extending further comprises:

apparatus that monitors said incoming call; and

one remote non-cordless land line station device.

apparatus that detects an on-hook signal at said at least one remote non-cordless land line station device for terminating said call between said at least one remote non-cordless land line station device and said wireless network via said cell phone and said wireless interfaces.

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3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2 characterized in that said apparatus for extending further comprises:

apparatus responsive to the initiation of an outgoing call by a calling one of said at least one remote non-cordless land line station device devices for extending said outgoing call via the one of said wireless interfaces unique to said calling remote non-cordless land line station device and via the wireless network of said cell phone and via said cell phone and said wireless network to a called station served by said wireless network.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of said claims 1 characterized in that <u>each</u> said <del>at</del> least one remote non-cordless land line station device comprises any one of or any combination of:

non-cordless land line telephones;

computers;

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communication paths extending to other <u>networks</u> and/or network appliances;

fax machines;

fire, security and alarm detection devices;

printers; and

20 household appliances.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3 [[4]] wherein said non-cordless land line station devices comprises comprise non-cordless land line telephones, said system further comprising:

apparatus that detects an off-hook state of a calling one of said remote noncordless land line telephones;

apparatus including said wireless interfaces that transmits said off-hook signal from said [[one]] calling remote non-cordless land line telephone to said cell phone;

apparatus that activates said cell phone in response to the receipt of said off-hook on-hook signal:

apparatus including said <u>cell phone</u> wireless interface associated with said one calling remote non-cordless land line station telephone for receiving a called station number from said one-non-cordless calling remote <u>non-cordless</u> land line station telephone;

apparatus including said wireless interface associated with said [[one]] calling remote non-cordless land line telephone for transmitting said called station number to said cell phone;

said cell phone being responsive to the receipt of said called station number for initiating the establishment of a call via said wireless network to said called station;

apparatus for detecting an on-hook state of said called station or of said [[one]] calling remote non-cordless land line telephone for transmitting a call end signal to said cell phone; and

said cell phone being responsive to said receipt of said call end signal for ending said call to said called station.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4 further comprising:

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apparatus including said cell phone for detecting the receipt of an incoming call from said wireless network;

apparatus including said cell phone responsive to said detecting for applying a ringing control signal to the wireless interface associated with said cell phone;

apparatus for transmitting said ringing control signal to [[the]] wireless interfaces individual to each of associated with said remote non-cordless land line telephones;

apparatus responsive to the receipt of said ringing control signal for applying ringing current to said remote non-cordless land line telephones;

apparatus for generating an off-hook signal at a responsive one of remote non-cordless land line telephones;

said off-hook signal is transmitted to said cell phone via said wireless interfaces interface individual to said responsive cordless land line telephone;

said cell phone being responsive to the receipt of said off-hook signal for terminating the generation of said <u>ringing</u> control signal;

said wireless interfaces being responsive to the termination of said ringing control signal for termination ringing at said remote non-cordless land line telephones;

said cell phone being effective to monitor said incoming call;

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apparatus for detecting an on-hook state of said called station or of said responsive remote non-cordless land line telephone for transmitting a call end signal to said cell phone; and

said cell phone being responsive to said receipt of said call end signal for ending said incoming call.

- 7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 characterized in that said cell phone is adapted to serve calls between said wireless network and said remote non-cordless land telephones only when said cell phone is connected signal-wise to said base unit. to connect said cell phone with said first wireless interface via said base unit.
- 8. (Currently Amended) In a system having a first wireless interface adapted to be coupled to a cell phone, said system further having a second additional wireless interface interfaces each of which is adapted to be individual to and coupled to an individual one of a plurality of [[a]] remote non-cordless land line telephone telephones; said system further comprising:

apparatus for receiving indicia of a call request by either said first or <u>one of said</u> additional second wireless interfaces; and

apparatus that extends said call request to the other of said first or second said additional wireless interfaces to extend a call connection between said cell-phone and said a remote non-cordless land telephone via said first wireless interface and second said additional wireless interfaces interface individual to said remote non-cordless land telephone.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8 characterized in that:

said apparatus for receiving is operable to receive said indicia within said first wireless interface from said cell phone and to extend said call via said second additional wireless interface to said remote non-cordless land line telephone; and

said apparatus for receiving is also operable to receive said indicia within said second additional wireless interface from said remote non-cordless land line telephone and to extend said call connection via said first wireless interface to said cell phone.

- 10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein a different one of at least one of said additional wireless interfaces is individual to and integrated into [[a]] the different one of said remote non-cordless land line telephones individual to said wireless interface.
- 11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 10 including a plurality of wherein each of said remote non-cordless land line telephones each of which has a pair of tip and ring conductors adapted to be connected to one of said an individual one of a plurality of wireless interfaces, and each of said remote non-cordless land line telephones includes conductors connecting a handset of said remote non-cordless land line telephones telephone to a base of each said remote non-cordless land line telephones telephone.
  - 12. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a communication system adapted to enable remote non-cordless land line station devices of said system to make and receive calls over a wireless network using a wireless phone, such as a cell phone, coupled in series between said wireless network and said remote non-cordless land line station devices, said system comprising:

a plurality of wireless interfaces;

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a cell phone base unit coupled to a first one of said wireless interfaces; said cell phone base unit is adapted to be coupled signal-wise to a cell phone; each at least one remote non-cordless land line station device being individual to

<u>each at least one</u> remote non-cordless land line station device <u>being individual to</u> <u>and</u> coupled to another one of said wireless interfaces; said method comprising the step of:

operating apparatus within said wireless interfaces responsive to the receipt of an incoming call from said wireless network for extending said incoming call via said cell phone and said wireless interfaces interface individual to said cell phone to said at least

one remote non-cordless land line station device <u>via the wireless interface individual to</u> <u>said at least one remote non-cordless land line station device.</u>

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising the steps of: monitoring said incoming call; and

operating said cell phone for detecting an on-hook signal generated by said at least one remote non-cordless land line station devices device for terminating said call. between said at least one remote non-cordless land line station device and via said wireless network via said cell phone.

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14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of: detecting the initiation of an outgoing call by said at least one remote non-cordless land line station device for extending said outgoing call via said wireless interfaces and said cell phone and via said wireless network to a called station.

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15. (Currently Amended) The method of said claim 12 characterized in that said at least one remote non-cordless land line station device comprises any one of or any combination of:

non-cordless land line telephones;

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computers;

printers;

PDAs;

communication paths extending to other networks and/or network appliances; fax machines:

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fire, security and alarm detection devices; and household appliances.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[15]] 12 wherein said remote non-cordless land line station device comprises devices comprise [[a]] remote non-cordless land line telephone telephones, and wherein a different one of said wireless interfaces is individual to and integrated into a different one of said remote non-cordless land line

telephones telephone to which said wireless interface is individual, said method further comprising the steps of:

detecting an off-hook state of a calling one of said remote non-cordless land line telephones;

transmitting said off-hook signal from said calling remote non-cordless land line telephone to said cell phone;

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activating said cell phone in response to the receipt of said off-hook signal; transmitting a called station number from said wireless interface <u>individual to</u> associated with said calling remote non-cordless land line telephone to said cell phone; and

operating said cell phone responsive to the receipt of said called station number for initiation the establishment of a call via said wireless network to said called station.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 further including the steps of:

operating said cell phone for detecting an on-hook state of said called station or said calling remote non-cordless land line telephone; and

said cell phone being responsive to said detection of said call end signal for ending said call.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 characterized in that said system exchanges the following signals between said calling remote non-cordless land line telephone and said cell phone during the serving of a call initiated by said calling remote non-cordless land line telephone:

an off-hook signal generated by said <u>calling</u> remote non-cordless land line telephone is transmitted via said wireless interfaces to said cell phone;

said calling remote non-cordless land line telephone dials the number of the called station to which said call is to be extended;

said dialed number is transmitted to said cell phone which transmits said dialed number to said wireless network for the establishment of a connection to said called station; said cell phone monitors said call until an on-hook signal is detected at said calling remote non-cordless land line telephone and/or at said called station; and said cell phone is responsive to the detection of said off-hook signal to terminate the call between said calling remote non-cordless land line telephone and said called station.

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19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 characterized in that said system exchanges the following signals between said cell phone and said calling remote non-cordless land line telephones during the serving g of a call received by said cell phone from said wireless network

in response to receipt of a call from said wireless network, said cell phone transmits a ringing control signal to said remote non-cordless land line telephones via said wireless interfaces of said remote non-cordless land line telephones;

said ringing control signal activates a ring generator in the wireless interface interfaces associated with each of said remote non-cordless land line telephones to apply ringing current to of said remote non-cordless land line telephones;

the generation of an off-hook signal at a responding one of said remote non-cordless land line telephones transmits a signal to the wireless interface associated with said cell phone to terminate the generation of said ringing control signal; by said cell phone;

said cell phone terminates the generation of said ringing control signal to terminate ringing at said remote non-cordless land line telephones;

said cell phone establishes a voice path between said cell phone and said responding one of said remote non-cordless land line telephones; and

said cell phone monitors said call and terminates said call upon the generation of an on-hook signal by said responding one of said remote non-cordless land line telephones;

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 characterized in that step of operating said cell phone is effective to serve calls between said wireless network and said remote non-cordless land line telephones only when said cell phone is connected

signal-wise to said base unit to connect said cell phone with said first wireless interface via said base unit.

#### **REMARKS**

This amendment responds to the final office action of 24 April 2006 which considered all of pending claims 1-20. This final office action erroneously indicated that claims 1-22 are pending. This is an error since the application was filed with and still contains only claims 1-20. This office action finally rejected claims 1-20. The rejection of the claims 1-20 is respectfully traversed. Claims 1-16 and 18-19 have been amended. All of claims 1-20 are resubmitted for further consideration.

Claims 1-10 and 12-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over US patent application 2003/0157929 Janssen et al. (Janssen) in view of US patent 5,978,684 Cook et al. (Cook). Claim 11 was rejected over the Janssen/Cook combination in further view of patent 6,775,522 to Schornack. The rejection of claims 1-10 and 12-20 as well as the rejection of claim 11 are respectfully traversed.

The rejection of claims 1-10 and 12-20 as well as the rejection of claim 11 is traversed for a number of reasons. The first reason, as subsequently discussed in detail, is that the rejections are improper as failing to meet the requirements that 35 U.S.C. 103 obvious rejections must possess. These requirements are set forth in detail in section 2142 and 2143 of the MPEP. The applicant asserts that it is improper for the examiner to rely upon his proposed combination of prior art references because of the deficiencies of his 35 U.S.C. 103 rejections. The second reason for the traversal of the rejection of claims 1-20 is that the examiner's proposed combination of Janssen, Cook, and Schornack, even if they could be combined, would fail to make obvious the structure recited in applicant's claims.

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# Comments regarding the 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) rejection of claims 1-10 and 12-20

Janssen uses cordless phones and other station devices for making and receiving calls over an external cellular network using a cellular telephone as an interface between the external network and a cordless phone.

The present invention discloses a system that enables non-cordless station devices, including non-cordless conventional landline telephones, to make and receive

calls over an external cellular network using a cell phone as an interface between the external cellular network and the non-cordless landline telephones. A distinction between the present invention and Janssen is that the present invention permits the use of any type of landline phone to be used; Janssen is limited to the use of cordless phones. This is a meaningful distinction.

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Janssen requires the use of cordless phones. Conventional landline phones cannot be used with Jansen. The system of the present invention does not suffer from this Janssen requirement. The present invention permits the use of any type of landline phone including the venerable black phones that are adapted to be connected to a conventional tip and ring conductor pair. Most existing residences are equipped with the conventional non-cordless landline phones. The present invention permits landline phones of existing residences to use an external cellular network for their residential phone service. This is easily achieved by coupling each existing non-cordless landline phone to a simple wireless interface that communicates via a cell phone in the residence with the cellular network. Janssen, by comparison, does not permit a homeowner to use his/her existing landline phones. Janssen requires that the homeowner's existing phone system be discarded and replaced by the cordless phones.

Claims 1-16 and 18-19 are revised by this amendment to clarify the distinctions between the claimed invention and the cited references. As amended, the claimed invention is directed to a system that uses a cell phone to establish call connections between a cellular network and a plurality of station devices, such as non-cordless landline phones each of which is individual to a different one of a plurality of wireless interfaces. The wireless interfaces permit the cell phone to communicate with the landline phones.

The amended claims recite that one of the plurality of wireless interfaces is individual to the cell phone and that the remainder of the plurality of wireless interfaces are individual to different ones of the landline telephones. In accordance with the presently claimed invention, a connection is established between the cell phone and a landline telephone, or station device; by a series connection that includes the cell phone, the wireless interface individual to the cell phone, the wireless interface individual to the landline telephone. The system defined

by the amended claim permits a new house that does not have installed telephone wiring to be served by the cell phone and the landline telephones which establish connections with each other via the wireless interfaces individual to each landline phone.

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This advantageously enables the system of the present invention to serve the communication needs of a new house using inexpensive conventional landline phones without the need for installing wiring to interconnect the landline phones with the cell phone. The wireless interfaces individual to the landline phones together with the wireless interfaces connected to the cell phone permit call connections to be established between the landline phones and the cell phones for extension to the cellular network.

The claimed system is distinguishable from Janssen taken singularly or in combination with Cook. Janssen uses cordless phones to communicate with the centralized cell phone. Cook uses a conventional landline telephone connected to a centralized cell phone. Neither Janssen nor Cook disclose a system having a centralized cell phone that is connected signal-wise to a plurality of remote landline phones by means of a plurality of wireless interfaces each of which is individual to a different landline phone. Cook uses landline phones that are connected by wiring to his cell phone 34. The Cook reference, taken either by itself or in combination with Janssen, fails to teach or reasonably suggest the claimed invention because the landline phones of Cook are not connected by wireless interfaces to cell phone 34 of Cook.

Janssen and Cook, taken either singularly or in combination, do not make obvious the claimed invention. Even if Janssen and Cook could be combined as asserted by the examiner, they would not meet the requirements of the presently claimed invention since the use of the Cook system when combined with Janssen would still require the installation of house wiring to interconnect the telephone 44 and 46 of Cook with the Cook cell phone 34.

The use of applicant's wireless interfaces and associated non-cordless phones creates a whole new market for applicant's equipment by enabling homeowners to use their present landline phones when practicing applicant's invention rather than being

required to discard their present landline phones when practicing the Janssen invention. The distinctions between the two systems are non-trivial and non-obvious and solve the problem created by Janssen.

The rejection of claim 11 in view of the combination of Janssen, Cook, and Shornack is traversed. This rejection need not be discussed in detail since claim 11 is dependent from allowable preceding claim 10. Also, this rejection is further traversed since the elements of claim 10 including the wireless interfaces associated with the recited landline telephones are not show on in the prior art including the combination of Janssen/Cook/Shornack.

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### Comments Regarding the 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) Rejections

The 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) rejection of claims 1-10 and 12-20 over Janssen and Cook is improper and must be withdrawn since it fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness as required by sections 2142 and 2143 of MPEP. The examiner's rejection contains no evidence supporting a motivation to combine the cited references. The examiner merely asserted that it would be obvious to combine Janssen with Cook to make obvious the claimed invention. The examiner failed to provide evidence indicating why one would be motivated to combine Janssen with Cook.

The examiner's rejection amounts to nothing more than unsupported assertions based on impermissible 20/20 hindsight using knowledge gained from a reading of the applicant's application followed by the use of this knowledge against the applicant. An assertion of obviousness requires evidence supporting the establishment of a prima facie case of obviousness. An obviousness rejection without such evidence is improper and devoid of merit.

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The examiner is respectfully referred to sections 2142 and 2143 of the MPEP which describe what is required to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. These sections state that the examiner must initially present evidence supporting a prima facie conclusion of obviousness. These sections state that if the examiner does not produce evidence supporting a prima facie case of obviousness, the applicant is under no obligation to submit evidence of nonobviousness.

Section 2142 requires that the prior art references must teach or suggest all of the limitations of the rejected claim. Section 2142 further states that in order to support a conclusion that the presently claimed invention is obvious, the references must expressly or impliedly teach or suggest the presently claimed invention. This section of the MPEP also requires that the examiner must present a convincing line of reasoning why the claimed invention would be obvious in view of the teachings of the reference or combination of references. The examiner's obviousness rejection is improper and should be withdrawn since it fails to meet these requirements.

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Section 2143 discusses the evidence required to support a motivation to combine references. This section states that the prior art must suggest the desirability of combining the references to make the presently claimed invention obvious. It states that without evidence of motivation to modify, a rejection based on obviousness is improper. Section 2143 states that the fact that the reference can be modified is not sufficient to establish a prima facie obviousness. It further states that the fact that combining the references may be within the capabilities of one skilled in the art is not, without more, evidence of motivation to combine.

The examiner is referred to the above-discussed sections of the MPEP together with the case law cited therein for further elaboration on the subject of what is required to establish *prima facie obviousness*. By reading the MPEP, the examiner will be instructed that the mere fact that it might be desirable to combine Cook with Janssen is not sufficient. The elusive ingredient required to support *prima facie obviousness* is evidence of a motivation to combine. Ideally, this evidence of motivation should be found in Janssen or Cook.

An obviousness rejection proposing a combination of references should contain sufficient information so that it is clear as to what the examiner is suggesting and how the references are to be combined. Design level details are not required. However, more is required than the mere assertion that the references could be combined. One could argue that *anything can be combined with anything*. Such an argument would be devoid of intellectual content unless persuasive reasons are presented indicating how and why the proposed combination could be achieved and implemented. Fairness requires that the examiner provide some information as to how and why the references

are to be modified to achieve the proposed modification. In other words, the examiner is requested to indicate with particularity and specificity what elements of Cook are to be combined with what elements of Janssen to achieve a resultant structure that allegedly makes obvious the applicant's claims.

If the examiner reapplies the Janssen/Cook combination he is respectfully requested to comply with the requirements of the MPEP and provide evidence of motivation to modify. In so doing, he is requested to indicate with specificity and particularity where the evidence of motivation to modify is found in Janssen and or Cook.

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The examiner's comments supporting his 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections of claims 1-10 and 12-20 over Janssen/Cook are set forth in paragraph 4 beginning on page 2 of the office action. The examiner's rejections do not meet the requirements needed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness as required by the MPEP. His rejections appear to be devoid of any attempt to present evidence of *motivation to combine* the Janssen and Cook references. The examiner's comments appear to be nothing more than unsupported assertions that Janssen could be combined with Cook. The examiner's statement is literally correct since one could obviously assert that *anything known to the human race could be combined with anything* else known to the human race. So what? Such a hypothetical statement is meaningless and proves nothing. It most certainly does not meet the requirements of MPEP 2142 regarding the establishment of a prima facie case of obviousness.

In support of his rejection of claim 1 the examiner, characterizes Janssen, asserts that Cook discloses cordless landline station devices; and then sets forth the ritualistic assertion that

"It would've been obvious for one of ordinary skill in art at the time the invention was made to modify Janssen's system to include a non-cordless landline device as taught by Cook for the advantage of supporting access wireline communications devices to the public wireline network via wireless communications (column one lines 11 -- 18)."

The examiner's rejection is devoid of any evidence of motivation to combine or of the establishment of a prima facie case of obviousness. The examiner's rejection fails to meet the requirements of MPEP 2142 and 2143 regarding the criteria to be used in obviousness rejections. Specifically, no evidence is presented as to why one would be motivated to combine Janssen with Cook. The examiner's statement is pure 20/20 hindsight.

The remainder of claims 1-10 and 12-20 use the same improper format in formulating obviousness rejections based on the Janssen/Cook combination.

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The applicant's claims recite that the applicant's system has remote non-cordless landline station devices (or remote non-cordless landline telephones). This terminology distinguishes applicant's non-cordless landline telephones from the cordless phones of Janssen. A further key distinction between applicant's non-cordless landline telephones and Janssen's cordless phones is that applicant's claims clearly recite that the plurality of applicant's non-cordless landline telephones are each individual to a different one of a plurality of wireless interfaces. Each such wireless interface is used to connect its individual non-cordless landline phone signal-wise with the cell phone of the system during the serving of a call by the non-cordless landline telephone. This is a key distinction between the presently claimed invention and the Janssen system which uses cordless phones exclusively. It is true that the Janssen cordless phones each have a wireless interface. However, the applicant's claims are directed to a system that uses non-cordless landline phones each individual to a different one of a plurality of wireless interfaces. This is recitation is not met by the Janssen cordless phones. Applicant's system enables a homeowner with conventional landline phones to receive call service from a cellular network by equipping each non-cordless existing landline phone with a wireless interface. This enables each non-cordless landline phone to communicate via a centralized cell phone with the cellular network without obsoleting his existing landline phones. This cannot be done by Janssen whose system requires the use of cordless phones.

The examiner's terminology in rejecting many of the claims is confusing since he refers to the existence of a second wireless network in Janssen whose cordless phones obviously have an integral wireless interface. Janssen cordless phones are irrelevant to the presently claimed invention which requires the combination of a plurality of non-

cordless landline phones each of which is individual to a different one of a plurality of wireless interfaces. This is not shown by Jansen or by the combination of Jansen and Cook. In so far as Cook can be understood, it would appear that the Cook system contains conventional landline phones connected to a cell phone. It does not appear that the Cook system contains a plurality of conventional non-cordless landline phones each of which is individual to a different one of a plurality of wireless interfaces. In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the examiner's rejection of many of the claims such as 1-2, 5, 6-8, etc. as being met by Janssen is confusing. The examiner's comments are not understood since Janssen does not disclose non-cordless landline phones each individual to a different one of a plurality of wireless interfaces. The examiner is in error if he is mistakenly of the opinion that Jansen is so equipped. Each of the examiner's rejections admits that Janssen does not disclose non-cordless phones.

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The examiner's use of Cook to form the Janssen/Cook combination is of no value since Cook discloses only conventional landline phones directly connected by wires to a centralized cell phone. In so far as Cook can be understood, it does not appear to disclose a plurality of landline phones each of which is individual to a different one of a plurality of wireless interfaces used to permit the landline phones to communicate with the centralized cell phone.

The examiner's comments on page 9 regarding claim 11 are in error and are respectfully traversed. In this material the examiner asserts, in essence, that Cook teaches different wireless devices individual to and integrated into one of the remote landline telephones. Cook does not disclose the structure to which the examiner refers.

It is respectfully submitted that all claims of the application are distinguishable from the cited art.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned if the prosecution of the application can be expedited by so doing.

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: 20 June 0 (

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SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

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